

the sole rulership of our Redeemer it be inevitable that our churches for a time perish, let us be prepared calmly to meet their perdition ; for when we stand at the grave's mouth of their destruction, it can only be with a sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection—the resurrection of churches whose new-built cry shall be, “ Jesus alone saves us, and Christ alone shall rule us—none but Christ.”
—*Abridged.*

Trans-Atlantic Retrospect.

One or two more matters remain to notice in connection with the Autumnal meeting of the CONGREGATIONAL UNION, the full report of which did not reach us in time for our last number. *Home Missions* properly occupied a large share of attention ; the fact that, as the Treasurer of the Missions stated, “ there are hundreds of districts in this country where there is a large amount of positive heathenism,” was felt to demand the thought and labour of all who desired the spiritual elevation and enlightenment of their native land. Various suggestions were made to meet the felt difficulties of reaching the masses, the principal one being the more extensive employment of lay preachers ; an agency which, by the testimony of several ministers present, had been productive of great good wherever used. The idea was ably supported by one of the principal laymen present, Mr. Morley, who said :

Ministers and deacons would look out for suitable men and women, they would find them ready to their hands—ready to be called upon. He held it to be a vital question with Congregationalists at this moment. They had been resting too much on the pulpit, and depending too much on mere organisation. A treasurer of the Home Missionary Society, he could tell them of hundreds of districts in this country where there was a large amount of positive heathenism, so far as the great masses of the people were concerned. Principles, in spite of boasting, were worthless unless they could carry the Gospel to the people. In this respect the Wesleyan Methodists had done most. All honour to them ! They were setting an example Congregationalists would do well to follow ; and he was prepared to say that, if he did not believe there was a greater adaptation in their system to work of this kind than in any other, so far as personal connexion or principles was concerned, he would give up Congregationalism in order to be promoting that kind of action which should diffuse the greatest blessings. Those churches that were doing most direct work were the very churches whose members were giving most evidence of spiritual life, and professing Christians gave poor proof of their sincerity if they were not doing all they could to extend to others the blessing they professed. He felt that this was their life, and he never before had a deeper impression of the position they occupied, of the union existing amongst them, and of their power for good the moment they rose to their responsibility in this respect. With reference to small contributions received from counties that were doing their own work, he would say that the existence of the Home Missionary Society was only a sad necessity and the sooner it ceased to be the better. It did not care about a flaming report. When money raised in a district was spent there too there was a greater security for its wise expenditure ; and by producing liberality in their churches they were most effectually promoting the great work. There was now ten times more danger of the spread of Popery from the state of things in the Church of England, than from any efforts of the Roman Catholics. People were drifting on to eternity, thinking they were saved because they were baptized ; and evangelists were wanted to go quietly amongst the people, to call upon them systematically in their cottages, to dissipate these errors. The white neckcloth had been spoken of ; but they did not want anything professional. Men were required who would read their Bibles and could pray, who could reach people's hearts by sympathising with them in their daily difficulties, who could take an interest in their social condition as well as in their spiritual existence, and who